



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/058,741  | 01/28/2002  | Ichiro Ueno          | 02049C/HG           | 5747             |
| 1933  | 7590        | 06/16/2004           |                     |                  |
| FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC<br>767 THIRD AVENUE<br>25TH FLOOR<br>NEW YORK, NY 10017-2023 |             |                      | EXAMINER            | LISH, PETER J    |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 1754                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|   |                               |                             |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b>  | Application No.<br>10/058,741 | Applicant(s)<br>UENO ET AL. |
|   | Examiner<br>Peter J Lish      | Art Unit<br>1754            |
| <i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>  |                               |                             |
| <b>Period for Reply</b>   |                               |                             |
| <b>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</b>  |                               |                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</li> <li>- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).</li> </ul> |                               |                             |
| <p>Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</p>  |                               |                             |
| <b>Status</b>   |                               |                             |
| <p>1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 April 2004</u>.</p> <p>2a)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL.                    2b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3)<input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.</p>   |                               |                             |
| <b>Disposition of Claims</b>  |                               |                             |
| <p>4)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-48</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.</p> <p>7)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.</p> <p>8)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-48</u> are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>  |                               |                             |
| <b>Application Papers</b>   |                               |                             |
| <p>9)<input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10)<input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)<input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b)<input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).</p> <p>11)<input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.</p>  |                               |                             |
| <b>Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119</b>   |                               |                             |
| <p>12)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</p> <p>a)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All    b)<input type="checkbox"/> Some * c)<input type="checkbox"/> None of:</p> <p>1.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</p> <p>2.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.</p> <p>3.<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p>  |                               |                             |
| <p>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p>   |                               |                             |
| <b>Attachment(s)</b>  |                               |                             |
| <p>1)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3)<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br/>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____</p> <p>4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br/>Paper No(s)/Mail Date, _____</p> <p>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>   |                               |                             |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-18, drawn to a method of carbonizing combustible waste and using the product to purify gas, classified in class 502, subclass 418.
- II. Claims 19-33, drawn to a method of molding waste to a desired shape before carbonization, classified in class 201, subclass 6.
- III. Claims 34-35 and 48, drawn to an activated charcoal product, classified in class 502, subclass 416.
- IV. Claims 36-47, drawn to a method of carbonizing waste as a specific temperature to obtain products and gas, classified in class 201, subclass 25.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different modes of operation, invention I requiring carbonization of waste and purification of gas, and invention II requiring a carbonization of waste, a molding, and a re-carbonization. Additionally, the inventions have different effects, as invention I produces a gas purifier, while invention II produces a molded article.

Inventions I and III are at best related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as

claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product could have been made by another and materially different process, such as the chemical activation of wood-based charcoal.

Inventions I and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IV has separate utility such as for the disposal of waste and the production of water purifiers, catalyst supports, etc. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions II and III are at best related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product could have been made by another and materially different process, such as the chemical activation of wood-based charcoal.

Inventions II and IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different modes of operation, invention II requiring a carbonization of waste, a molding, and a re-carbonization, and invention IV requiring carbonization of a specific waste material under specific conditions.

Inventions IV and III are at best related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as

Art Unit: 1754

claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product could have been made by another and materially different process, such as the chemical activation of wood-based charcoal.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. It is additionally noted that the applicant's specification is broken up into a number of unrelated embodiments (which are separated similarly to the groups of inventions in this restriction requirement). Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

The examiner notes that the restriction requirement, filed 3/19/04, and responded to on 4/1/04, is nullified by the present restriction requirement. The examiner apologizes for the filing of this successive restriction requirement, however, upon commencing the <sup>burdensome</sup> A search, the examiner has come to realize that a proper and full examination of each invention (or embodiment) on its merits cannot be performed within the context of the examination of the entirety of the claims from the previously elected group, which encompassed present groups I, II, and IV. The examiner would additionally note that upon the indication of allowable matter that may be pertinent to the claims of non-elected groups, rejoinder may be considered.

Art Unit: 1754

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter J Lish whose telephone number is 571-272-1354. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-6:00 Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

PL

  
STUART L. HENDRICKSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER